

## Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 INT-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00

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R 111445Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2122

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BDIS, EMIN, SP

SUBJ: COFOMIN MERCURY MINE

REF: STATE 61750, MADRID 2032

1. MR. RENOUF RUSSELL VISITED EMBASSY 9 JUNE 1975 TO ONCE MORE DISCUSS COFOMIN SITUATION. HE ASKED IF MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY HAD STATED IN WRITING THAT COFOMIN COULD OPERATE THEIR MINE. EMBOFF TOLD HIM NO, BUT THEN AS FAR AS EMBASSY COULD DISCERN HE HAD NEVER RECEIVED ANY NOTICE FROM THE AUTHORITIES TERMINATING THE COMPANY'S PERMISSION TO OPERATE. HE SAID THAT FIRM NEVER RECEIVED ANY SUCH NOTICE. HOWEVER, COMPANY ASSUMED MINING LAW OF 1973, WHICH SPECIFICALLY FORBIDS FOREIGN OWNERSHIP OF MERCURY MINES, PREVENTED IT FROM CONTINUING OPERATIONS.

2. EMBOFF REPEATED ORAL STATEMENT GIVEN IN PERSON TO RUSSELL BY MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY OFFICIALS LAST FALL THAT 1973 MINING LAW WAS NOT RETROACTIVE AND THUS DID NOT AFFECT COFOMIN'S RIGHT TO OPERATE ITS MERCURY MINE. ALSO, REPEATED WARNING THAT ANY TRANSFER OF COFOMIN WOULD HAVE TO BE TO SPANISH CITIZENS SINCE THIS WOULD NOW COME UNDER 1973 LAW. EMBOFF TOLD RUSSELL THAT IN ABSENCE FORMAL ORDER FOR COFOMIN TO CEASE OPERATIONS, IT IS UNLIKELY ANY GOS AGENCY WOULD GIVE WRITTEN ASSURANCE THAT FIRM COULD OPERATE MINE.

3. RUSSELL SAID IMMEDIATE PROBLEM IS TO SEEK CAPITAL TO  
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CONTINUE COMPANY'S OPERATIONS. SAID FIRM STILL WANTS SPANISH

PARTNERS. EMBOFF SIAD HE SHOULD BE CAREFUL WITH ANY CHANGE IN COFOMINS'S OWNERSHIP SINCE THIS MAY BE USED TO BRING COMPANY UNDER PROVISIONS OF 1973 LAW.

4. RUSSELL CALLED EMBASSY JUNE 10 TO SAY THAT HE AND HIS LAWYER, SR. MELLADO, HAD DISCUSSED MATTER WITH A SR. FANJUL WHO IS THE LAWYER FOR THE OWNER OF THE PROPERTY WHERE THE MINE IS LOCATED, SRA. MUNIZ. THEY AGREED TO DRAW UP A PROPOSAL INCREASING SRA. MUNIZ'S OWNERSHIP OF COFOMIN IN EXCHANGE FOR OPTION PAYMENTS COFOMIN HAS BEEN PAYING HER. RUSSELL SAID HE WAS LEAVING FOR PARIS THAT DAY AND WOULD CHECK WITH THE EMBASSY WHEN HE RETURNED.  
STABLER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** EXPLORATION, LAW, EXPLOITATION (NATURAL RESOURCES), MEETING REPORTS  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** SmithRJ  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Subject:** COFOMIN MERCURY MINE  
**TAGS:** BDIS, EMIN, SP, (LLANSO Y LOPO, ENRIQUE)  
**To:** STATE  
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